

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following heading on page 1, before  
line 3:

C<sub>1</sub>

Background of the Invention

5 Please insert the following heading on page 2, before  
line 1:

C<sub>2</sub>

Summary of the Invention

Please insert the following heading on page 7, before  
line 16:

C<sub>3</sub>

Brief Description of the Drawing

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line  
16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

C<sub>4</sub>

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-- Figs. 1a and 1b show schematic end views of  
a prior art clamp and a clamp of the  
invention, respectively; --

Please insert the following heading on page 8, before  
line 7:

C<sub>5</sub>

Detailed Description of the Invention

20 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 7  
with the following rewritten paragraph:

C<sub>6</sub>

-- A known pipe ~~elaim~~ clamp is shown ~~is in~~  
figure 1a. --

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

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1. (Cancelled) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp, comprising

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(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and

(ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

10

wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt.

2. (Cancelled) An assembly according to Claim 1, wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat pushes the prongs of the clamp member together and can tighten the prongs around the bolt.

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3. (Cancelled) An assembly according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the nut comprises a mating surface at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with a corresponding mating surface on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each other prevents outward movement of the prongs and/or pushes the prongs together and tightens them around the bolt.

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4. (Cancelled) An assembly according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein prongs of the clamp member form a U-shaped aperture such that in use a bolt can be inserted laterally into the open end of the aperture and the seat is formed from the sides of the prongs.

5. (Cancelled) An assembly according to any of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the nut comprises wings for hand tightening in use and a means for machine tightening the nut onto the bolt during manufacture of a clamp which  
5 comprises the assembly.

6. (Cancelled) An assembly according to any previous Claim made of plastics material.

7. (Cancelled) A method of securing a clamp around a pipe, comprising:

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10        locating an upper clamp member over the pipe;  
         locating a lower clamp member under the pipe,  
         respective first ends of the clamp members being  
         connected, optionally via a pivot, and a bolt being  
         attached to the second end of one of the clamp members;  
15        and

         tightening a nut onto the bolt so the nut engages  
         with a seat on the second end of the other clamp member  
         so as to close the clamp;

         wherein the seat comprises prongs forming an open-  
20        sided aperture for the bolt; and tightening the nut  
         prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the  
         bolt.

8. (Cancelled) A method according to Claim 7,  
         comprising tightening the nut onto the bolt so as to  
25        move the prongs inwards and tighten the prongs around  
         the bolt.

9. (Cancelled) A clamp, for clamping pipework,  
         comprising:

         a first clamp member;  
30        a second clamp member;

a bolt; and

a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and second clamp members,

wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can be moved laterally, and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member prevents splaying of the prongs.

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10. (Cancelled) A clamp according to Claim 9, wherein tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member exerts an inward force on the prongs, towards the bolt.

15 11. (Cancelled) A clamp according to Claim 9, wherein the second clamp member comprises an open-sided, U-shaped aperture defined by prongs and in use the bolt can be moved laterally in and out of the aperture and the nut is tightened axially onto the bolt.

20 12. (Cancelled) A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the first and second clamp members are pivotally connected at respective first ends.

25 13. (Cancelled) A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 12, wherein the bolt is separate from the first clamp member and comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the first clamp member is resisted by the retention means.

14. (Cancelled) A clamp according to Claim 13, wherein the retention means comprises a resilient, angled projection so the bolt can easily be inserted into the aperture but is more difficult to remove once inserted.

5 15. (Cancelled) A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 14, wherein the bolt comprises a T-shaped end portion to engage against the first clamp member in use and to act as a pivot for pivotal movement of the bolt relative to the first clamp member.

10 16. (Cancelled) A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 15, wherein at the end that receives the nut the bolt comprises a non-threaded portion to facilitate location of the nut onto the bolt.

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15 17. (Cancelled) A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 17, wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and  
20 wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

18. (Cancelled) A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 17 made of plastics material.

25 19. (Cancelled) A clamp, having an upper member and a lower member, to go around a pipe, a nut and a bolt, wherein the bolt is separate from the lower clamp member and comprises a retention means and the lower clamp member comprises an aperture through which the

bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the lower clamp member is resisted by the retention means, and

5 wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and  
10 wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

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15 20. (Currently amended) A pipe clamp comprising at least first and second parts having a pivotal connection to allow ~~the~~ said at least first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, one of said parts having ends and having a bifurcation at one end through which the bolt passes, wherein said end mates directly in contact with the nut when it is  
20 tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation.

25 21. (Cancelled) The clamp of Claim 20, wherein a concave recess cooperates with a convex portion or portions dimensioned so that tightening the bolt urges the bifurcation together.

30 22. (Cancelled) The clamp of Claim 21, wherein the concave recess is provided on an inside surface of the nut and the convex portion or portions is or are provided on the end of the part through which the bolt passes.

23. (Currently amended) A clamp, for clamping  
pipework, comprising:-

a first clamp member;  
a second clamp member;  
5 a bolt; and  
a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached  
to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to  
the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the  
10 bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and  
second clamp members,

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wherein the second clamp member comprises an  
aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can  
be moved laterally, the nut mates directly with a seat  
15 integrally formed on the second clamp member and  
tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member  
prevents splaying of the prongs.

24. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein  
tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member  
20 exerts an inward force on the prongs, towards the bolt.

25. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein  
the second clamp member comprises an open-sided, U-  
shaped aperture defined by prongs and in use the bolt  
can be moved laterally in and out of the aperture and  
25 the nut is tightened axially onto the bolt.

26. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein  
the first and second clamp members are pivotally  
connected at respective first ends.

27. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein  
30 the bolt is separate from the first clamp member and

comprises a retention means and the first clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the first clamp member is resisted by the retention means.

28. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 27, wherein the retention means comprises a resilient, angled projection so the bolt can easily be inserted into the aperture but is more difficult to remove once inserted.

29. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the bolt comprises a T-shaped end portion to engage against the first clamp member in use and to act as a pivot for pivotal movement of the bolt relative to the first clamp member.

30. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein at the end that receives the nut the bolt comprises a non-threaded portion to facilitate location of the nut onto the bolt.

31. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

32. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23 made of plastics material.



33. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 32 wherein the plastics material is glass-filled nylon.

34. (Previously added) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein further projections extend from the prongs and prevent  
5 overclosing of the clamp.

35. (Currently amended) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp, comprising

(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and

C<sub>7</sub> 10 (ii) a clamp member having a seat integrally formed thereon for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

15 wherein the nut and seat mate directly and tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt.

36. (Previously added) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat pushes the prongs of the clamp member together and can tighten the prongs around the bolt.

20 37. (Cancelled) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein the nut comprises a mating surface at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with a corresponding mating surface on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each  
25 other prevents outward movement of the prongs and/or pushes the prongs together and tightens them around the bolt.

38. (Previously added) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein prongs of the clamp member form a U-shaped

aperture such that in use a bolt can be inserted laterally into the open end of the aperture and the seat is formed from the sides of the prongs.

5 39. (Previously added) The assembly of Claim 35 made of plastics material.

40. (Previously added) The assembly of Claim 39 wherein the plastics material is glass-filled nylon.

10 41. (Previously added) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein further projections extend from the prongs and prevent overclosing of the clamp.

C7 42. (Currently amended) A clamp, having an upper member and a lower member, to go around a pipe, a nut and a bolt,

15 wherein the bolt is separate from the lower clamp member and comprises a retention means and the lower clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the lower clamp member is resisted by the retention means, and

20 wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged directly to each other in a snap-fit relation and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the  
25 retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

43. (Previously added) A pipe clamp made of plastics material, comprising a first part and a second part, each having first and second ends, wherein the first ends of each of said first and second parts are  
5 pivotally connected to allow the first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, the second end of one of said first and second parts having a bifurcation through which the bolt passes,  
10 wherein the second end having the bifurcation engages with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation, and wherein further projections extend from the second end of one of said first and second parts and prevent overclosing of the  
15 clamp.

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44. (Currently amended) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp made of plastics material, comprising  
(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and  
(ii) a clamp member having a seat integrally formed  
20 thereon for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;  
wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the  
25 bolt.

45. (Currently amended) A clamp made of plastics material, for clamping pipework, comprising:-  
a first clamp member;  
a second clamp member;  
30 a bolt; and  
a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and second clamp members,

wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can be moved laterally, and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member directly in contact therewith prevents splaying of the prongs.

46. (New) A method of securing a clamp around a pipe, comprising:

locating an upper clamp member over the pipe;  
locating a lower clamp member under the pipe,  
respective first ends of the clamp members being connected, optionally via a pivot, and a bolt being attached to the second end of one of the clamp members; and

tightening a nut onto the bolt so the nut engages with a seat on the second end of the other clamp member so as to close the clamp;

wherein the seat comprises prongs forming an open-sided aperture for the bolt and tightening the nut prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt; and

tightening the nut onto the bolt so as to move the prongs inwards and tighten the prongs around the bolt.

47. (New) A pipe clamp comprising at least first and second parts having a pivotal connection to allow the said at least first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be

tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, one of said parts having ends and having a bifurcation at one end through which the bolt passes, wherein said end mates directly with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation, and wherein a concave recess provided on an inside surface of the nut cooperates with a convex portion or portions on the end of the part through which the bolt passes so that tightening the bolt urges the bifurcation together.

5 48. (New) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp, comprising

(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and

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15 (ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

wherein the nut and seat mate directly and tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt; and

20 wherein the nut comprises a mating surface at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with a corresponding mating surface on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each other prevents outward movement of the prongs  
25 and/or pushes the prongs together and tightens them around the bolt.

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